

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and

two heads extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane from a distal end of the stem to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base.

2. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the height of the lowermost extent of the well is at least about 70 percent of an overall height of one of the two oppositely-directed heads, measured perpendicular to the base from the tip of the head to an uppermost extent of the head.

3. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein each fastener element has an overall length between opposite extents of the heads, measured parallel to the base, of at least 1.8 times the overall height of the fastener element.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein a ratio of an overall height of each crook, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip to an uppermost extent of the crook, to an entrance height measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base below a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip, is greater than 0.6.
6. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein an overall height of one of the two oppositely-directed heads, measured perpendicular to the base from the tip of the head to an uppermost extent of the head, is less than 60 percent of the overall height of the fastener element.
7. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein a ratio of an overall length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in the engagement plane, to the height of the lowermost extent of the well, is greater than 2.5.
8. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein each fastener element has a mold release factor, defined as a ratio of a difference between a minimum solid length of the stem, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view, and a maximum solid length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view above an elevation corresponding to the minimum solid length, to the minimum solid length of the stem, of less than 0.1.
9. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein at least one of the heads has an overall height, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the tip of the head to an uppermost extent of the head, that is greater than half of an overall height of the fastener element, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base.

10. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the tips extend toward the base.
11. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the lower surfaces of the heads are arched.
12. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the heads and stem form a unitary molded structure.
13. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the heads have surfaces of resin cooled against mold surfaces.
14. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the stem has opposing surfaces defined by severed resin.
15. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the stem and heads have side surfaces lying in parallel planes.
16. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem.
17. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 16 wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.
- 18-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 further comprising a backing material laminated to a side of the base opposite the fastener elements.
25. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the fastener elements are arranged in a density of at least 350 fastener elements per square inch of the base.
26. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the fastener elements together cover at least 20 percent of an overall surface area of the base from which the fastener elements extend.
27. (Currently Amended) A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:
- a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
 - two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;
- wherein a ratio of an overall height of at least one of the heads, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the tip to an uppermost extent of the head, to a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is greater than 0.7.
28. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein each fastener element has an overall length between opposite extents of the heads, measured parallel to the base, of at least 1.8 times an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.
29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein a ratio of an overall height of each crook, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip to an uppermost extent of the crook, to an entrance height measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base below a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip, is greater than 0.6.

31. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein the overall height of one of the two oppositely-directed heads is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

32. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein a ratio of an overall length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in the engagement plane, to the height of the lowermost extent of the well, is greater than 2.5.

33. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein each fastener element has a mold release factor, defined as a ratio of a difference between a minimum solid length of the stem, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view, and a maximum solid length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view above an elevation corresponding to the minimum solid length, to the minimum solid length of the stem, of less than 0.1.

34. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein at least one of the heads has an overall height that is greater than half of an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base.

35. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein the tips extend toward the base.

36. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem.

37. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 36 wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.

38-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 further comprising a backing material laminated to a side of the base opposite the fastener elements.

46. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein the fastener elements are arranged in a density of at least 350 fastener elements per square inch of the base.

47. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein the fastener elements together cover at least 20 percent of an overall surface area of the base from which the fastener elements extend.

48. (Currently Amended) A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a ratio of an overall length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in the engagement plane between opposite extents of the heads, to a height of a

lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is greater than 2.5.

49. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 48 wherein the overall length of the fastener element is at least 1.8 times an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

50. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 48 wherein a ratio of an overall height of each crook, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip to an uppermost extent of the crook, to an entrance height measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base below a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip, is greater than 0.6.

51. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 48 wherein an overall height of one of the two oppositely-directed heads, measured perpendicular to the base from the tip of the head to an uppermost extent of the head, is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

52. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 48 wherein each fastener element has a mold release factor, defined as a ratio of a difference between a minimum solid length of the stem, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view, and a maximum solid length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view above an elevation corresponding to the minimum solid length, to the minimum solid length of the stem, of less than 0.1.

53. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 48 wherein at least one of the heads has an overall height, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of

the tip of the head to an uppermost extent of the head, that is greater than half of an overall height of the fastener element, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base.

54. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 48 wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem.

55. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 54 wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.

56-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 48 further comprising a backing material laminated to a side of the base opposite the fastener elements.

61. (Currently Amended) A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a molded stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein each fastener element has a mold release factor, defined as a ratio of a difference between a minimum solid length of the stem, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view, and a maximum solid length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view above an elevation corresponding to the minimum solid length, to the minimum solid length of the stem, of less than 0.1.

62. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 61 wherein the mold release factor is less than 0.05.

63. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 61 wherein the overall length of the fastener element is at least 1.8 times an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

64. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 61 wherein a ratio of an overall height of each crook, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip to an uppermost extent of the crook, to an entrance height measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base below a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip, is greater than 0.6.

65. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 61 wherein an overall height of one of the two oppositely-directed heads, measured perpendicular to the base from the tip of the head to an uppermost extent of the head, is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

66. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 61 wherein at least one of the heads has an overall height, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the tip of the head to an uppermost extent of the head, that is greater than half of an overall height of the fastener element, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base.

67. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 61 wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem.

68. (Original) The touch fastener component of claim 67 wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.

69-75. (Cancelled)

76. (New) The touch fastener component of claim 1 wherein the height of the fastener element is measured at a molded upper surface of the fastener element.

77. (New) The touch fastener component of claim 27 wherein the height of the fastener element is measured at a molded upper surface of the fastener element.

78. (New) The touch fastener component of claim 48 wherein the height of the fastener element is measured at a molded upper surface of the fastener element.

79. (New) The touch fastener component of claim 61 wherein the height of the fastener element is measured at a molded upper surface of the fastener element.